



**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 18-26**

**DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN  
MALHEUR COUNTY DUE TO A SUMMER OF LOW STREAMFLOW  
AND HOT, DRY CONDITIONS**

Pursuant to ORS 536.740, I find that extremely low streamflows and hot, dry conditions have caused natural and economic disaster conditions in Malheur County, resulting in a severe, continuing drought emergency in that county during 2018.

Drought conditions arrived early and persisted all season, including hot dry conditions, fires, reduced streamflow, and minimal precipitation. The long-term forecast for the region continues for warmer than normal temperatures and lower than normal precipitation. These conditions have had significant economic impact on the agriculture and livestock industries in Malheur County.

Conditions continue to be monitored by the state's natural resource and public safety agencies, including the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

Preparation and resiliency to drought are vital to the health and safety of persons, property, and the economic security of the citizens and businesses of Malheur County. I therefore declare that a severe, continuing drought emergency exists in Malheur County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:**

- I. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is directed to coordinate and provide assistance in seeking federal resources to mitigate drought conditions and to assist in agricultural recovery in Malheur County.
- II. The Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Malheur County as the Department and Commission determine is necessary and appropriate in accordance with ORS 536.700 to 536.780.



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- III. The Office of Emergency Management is directed to coordinate and assist as needed with assessment and mitigation activities to address current and projected conditions in Malheur County.
- IV. All other state agencies are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and to provide appropriate state resources as needed to assist affected political subdivisions and water users in Malheur County.
- V. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2018.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.



*Kate Brown*

Kate Brown  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*Dennis Richardson*

Dennis Richardson  
SECRETARY OF STATE